

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:GMD

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

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S/S - DWMILLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 065694

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ENRG, SA, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-SAUDI COOPERATION

REF: STATE 64522, JIDDA 1679

1. YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO SAUDIS PROMPTLY IN EFFORT TO
ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON DEFENSE CLAUSE. YOU SHOULD POINT
OUT THAT WE NOTED CONCERN EXPRESSED TO YOU BY DR. PHARAON
AND DESIRE TO HAVE ONLY GENERAL REFERENCE TO DEFENSE CO-
OPERATION BECAUSE A MORE SPECIFIC STATEMENT WOULD
PROMPT SPECULATION THERE WAS MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS
THE EYE AND THERE MIGHT EVEN BE SOME SECRET MILITARY
PACT. YOU SHOULD SAY WE BELIEVE THAT POINT WAS
WELL TAKEN AND OF SIMILAR CONCERN TO US.
AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE MIGHT VERY WELL LEAD TO CONCERN IN
OUR CONGRESS REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF US "COMMITMENT"
TO SAG, WHICH NEITHER USG OR SAG HAS IN MIND. IT WAS
AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT WE PROPOSED NEW WORDING
FOR SEPARATE SENTENCE WHICH WE BELIEVED WOULD MEET SAUDI
AND US CONCERNS AND LEGITIMATE INTERESTS IN HAVING
JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT INCLUDE POSITIVE STATEMENT THIS

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SUBJECT. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SAG PROPOSAL COULD BE

MISINTERPRETED HERE AND CREATE UNNECESSARY PROBLEMS FOR US, AS IN THE CONGRESS. (WE ALSO NOTE SYNTACTICAL PROBLEM IN THAT PROPOSED SAUDI CLAUSE TALKS ABOUT THE "TWO COUNTRIES" BEING PREPARED

TO FURNISH THE KINGDOM WITH WHAT IT NEEDS.) FURTHERMORE WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO HAVE IT NOTED THAT OUR COMMON INTERESTS THIS GENERAL AREA GO BEYOND DEFENSE AS SUCH TO BROADER PROBLEMS OF SECURITY -- A POINT WITH WHICH WE BELIEVE SAG AGREES.

2. FOR ABOVE REASONS, WE WOULD PREFER TO GO BACK TO SEPARATE SENTENCE ON SECURITY/DEFENSE QUESTION AS PROPOSED OUR REFTEL.

3. IF SAUDIS INSISTENT ON DEALING WITH THIS QUESTION IN SINGLE OPENING SENTENCE, WE WOULD AGREE TO FORMULATION AS FOLLOWS: FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE PREPARED TO EXPAND AND GIVE MORE CONCRETE EXPRESSION TO COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMICS, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY AND ON MATTERS OF COMMON SECURITY INTEREST INCLUDING THE KINGDOM'S NEEDS FOR ITS DEFENSE.

4. WE MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR CONSULTATIONS WE HAVE IN MIND WITH CERTAIN FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS AND THE CONGRESS. ANTICIPATING JOINT STATEMENT ON APRIL 4, WE HAVE BEEN PLANNING FOR BRIEFING VARIOUS COUNTRIES (INCLUDING EUROPEANS AT ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 3). IF WE CAN GET PROMPT AGREEMENT ON OUR REFORMULATION ON SECURITY/DEFENSE AS PROPOSED HEREIN, WE WOULD PLAN FOR JOINT STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED AT 1900 LOCAL HOURS RIYADH AND 12:00 NOON WASHINGTON TIME ON APRIL 5 REPEAT 5. IN THAT EVENT, WE WOULD CONDUCT OUR BRIEFINGS ON APRIL 4. FOR THIS PURPOSE, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR SAUDI AGREEMENT BY OPENING OF BUSINESS IN WASHINGTON APRIL 3. OTHERWISE WE SHALL
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HAVE TO LET JOINT STATEMENT AND ADVANCE BRIEFINGS SLIP FURTHER. IN EXPLAINING THIS TO SAUDIS, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE ARE ANXIOUS TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THEIR OWN STATED DESIRE FOR EARLY JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT.

5. WE WILL BE SENDING YOU SHORTLY INFO ON WHOM WE INTEND TO BRIEF AND WHAT WE WILL TELL THEM. WE ASSUME

SAUDIS WILL WISH TO GIVE US SIMILAR INFO. MEANWHILE
YOU SHOULD GO AHEAD WITHOUT DELAY TO GET THEIR AGREE-
MENT ON JOINT STATEMENT. RUSH

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